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NOTES ON GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION

Reptilia, Squamata, Dipsadidae, *Tomodon orestes* Harvey and Muñoz, 2004: Distribution extension, new country record

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ABSTRACT: We report the first record of *Tomodon orestes* Harvey and Muñoz, 2004 for Argentina. An adult male was collected in November 2008 in an open grassland habitat in the locality of Vallecito, Santa Victoria department, Salta province, Argentina. This new record is the southernmost locality for the species extending its distribution range ca. 95 km straight-line south from type locality.

The genus *Tomodon* Dúmeril and Bibron, 1853, recently included in the family Dipsadidae Bonaparte, 1838 (Zaher *et al.* 2009), comprises three species of small to medium sized snakes, that occurs in Bolivia, Paraguay, Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina (Giraudo and Scrocchi 2002; Harvey and Muñoz 2004).

Tomodon orestes Harvey and Muñoz, 2004 inhabits humid meadows and xeric scrub forests in the southern Andes of Bolivia between 2,200–3,300 m above sea level (Harvey and Muñoz 2004).

On 8 November 2008, we collected a specimen of *T. orestes* in the locality of Vallecito (22°20'56" S, 64°43'23" W; 1,704 m above sea level), Santa Victoria department, Salta province, NW Argentina (Figure 1). The snake was found at midday, displacing on bareground on a dirt road between the localities of Los Toldos and Lipeo. The dominant landscape in the locality is open grassland used for grazing cattle with patches of secondary subtropical humid montane forests (Yungas phytogeographic province *sensu* Cabrera 1976). The specimen did not display any antipredator behavior during capture as referred by Harvey and Muñoz (2004).

The voucher specimen was deposited in the herpetological collection of Fundación Miguel Lillo, Tucumán province, Argentina (FML 23135; Figure 2).

Following the methods and nomenclature proposed by Harvey and Muñoz (2004), the description of specimen and comparisons with holotype and paratypes results in: an adult male; snout-vent length 569 mm; tail length 95 mm; rostral visible from above; nasal subrectangular divided below naris; internasals, prefrontals and parietals paired; frontal single; loreal present; preoculars 2/2 (preocular single in holotype and paratypes); postoculars 2/2; temporals 1 + 2 + 3/1 + 2 + 3; supralabials 7/7, 3–4/3–4 entering in the orbit; infralabials 7/8 (8/8 in holotype and paratypes), 1–4/1–4 contacting first chinshield and 4/4 contacting second; two pairs of chinshields; 17-17-15 dorsal scale rows smooth with apical pits; ventral scales 162; subcaudals 45 divided; anal plate divided; terminal spine cone-shaped and 10 maxillary teeth. These characters allow us to identify this specimen as *T. orestes* and to discriminate it from others species of the tribe Tachymenini of NW Argentina as *Pseudotomodon trigonatus*, *Tachymenis peruviana*, *Thamnodynastes chaquensis* and *T. hypoconia* (Scrocchi *et al*. 2006).

The other two species of *Tomodon* inhabits Argentina from center to NE: *Tomodon ocellatus* occurs in open areas of Pampeana and Espinal phytogeographic provinces in Buenos Aires, Córdoba, Santa Fé, Entre Ríos and Corrientes provinces; *Tomodon dorsatus* occurs in Atlantic forest (Paranaense phytogeographic province) in Misiones province (Giraudo and Scrocchi 2002). There are no previous reports of *Tomodon* species in NW Argentina, except Serié 1921, who mentioned *T. dorsatus* for Tucumán

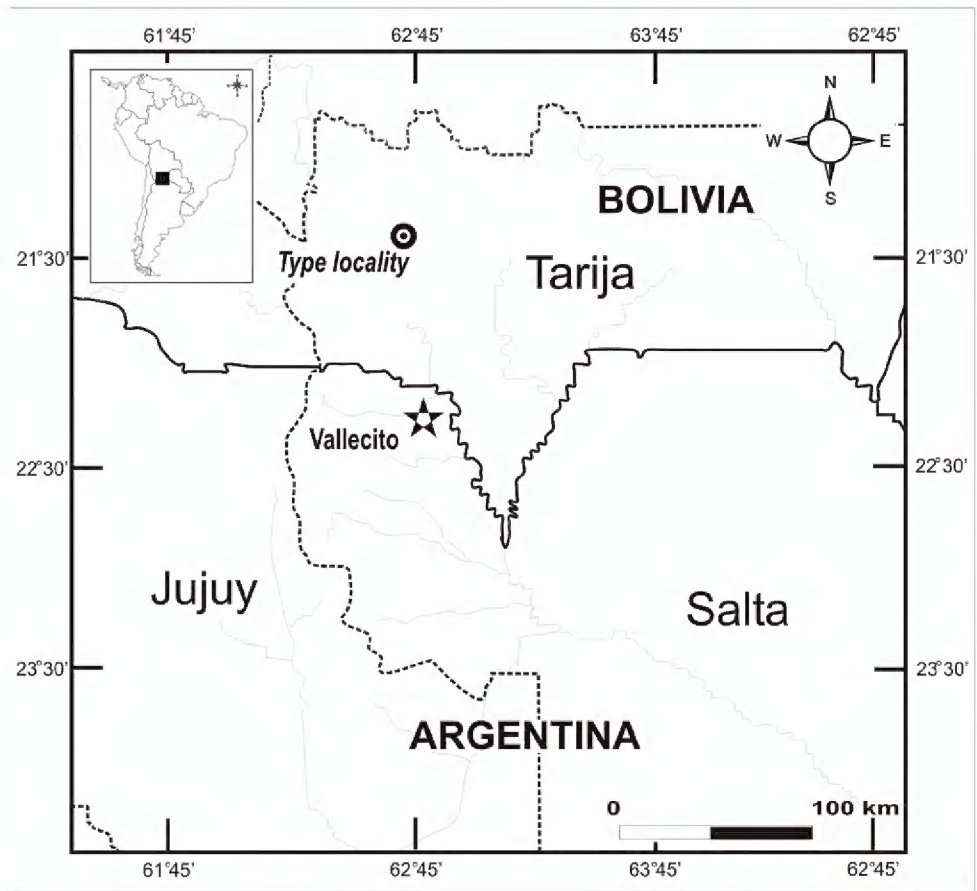

FIGURE 1. Geographic distribution of *Tomodon orestes*. Star symbol indicates locality of Vallecito, Salta province, Argentina, first country record. Circle indicates type locality in Bolivia.

Figure 2. *Tomodon orestes* (FML 23135), adult male from Vallecito, Santa Victoria departament, Salta province, Argentina. Photo: M. Vaira.

province but subsequently was discarded by other authors (Giraudo 2001; Scrocchi *et al.* 2006).

This new record of *Tomodon orestes* is the southernmost locality for the species extending its distribution range *ca.* 95 km straight-line south from type locality. Additionally represents the first country record for Argentina.

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